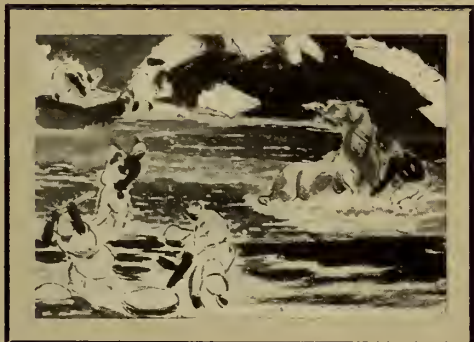


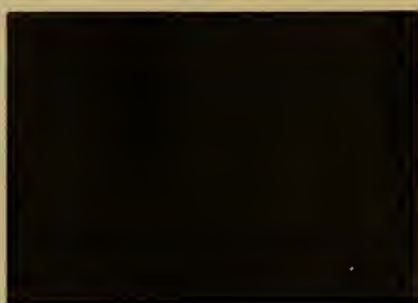
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ND1808
D6
1931

THE DOWNTOWN GALLERY

MASTERS OF WATER COLOR



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MASTERS OF WATER COLOR

ND 1808
D6
1931

FOREWORD

The water color medium has always attracted American artists. In our time some of the most creative and original of our painters use it exclusively, and this has been called a symptom of weakness in the American school by European critics like Meier-Graefe. Critical dogmas, even those derived from the writings of Aristotle, are based on foundations no broader than the practice of artists. It has been the practice of European artists to use the oil medium for their more serious efforts. This has led European writers on art to believe that water color is a lesser medium, limited in range, and that it is not as durable as oil. The belief is without foundation. Water color is practically indestructible when the right materials are used. The Chinese have shown that water color has a range and depth beyond anything that Europe has achieved in that medium, and their work points to the conclusion that the medium is limited by the artist, not the artist by the medium.

The American water color school derives from the English school of the 19th century, which reached the high point of its development in Turner. The Englishmen had their influence upon the earlier American water colorists, Winslow Homer, Sargent, Whistler and others, but upon the men of today the more powerful influences are Cezanne and the painting of the Far East. Cezanne gave a new impetus to the water color art with his penetrating study of spatial relations which he put down with transparent and sensitive washes handled with the greatest freedom.

The best men of the American water color school handle the medium with distinction. They have no superiors in the world today. Seven standard bearers of the American water color art are represented in this exhibition. Looking at their pictures one is struck by the variety of approach and the remarkably high standard of achievement.

These men differ a good deal in technique and in point of view. There is no school style. The style of each man is personal. There is Charles Demuth, with his structural precision, his sensitive line, and subtle and refined suggestions of tactility; Preston Dickinson, with his boldness of pattern, his unerring color sense, and his almost Oriental spacing; "Pop" Hart, with his magnificent appetite for life and his ability to transform it in all its immediacy of shape and color into a design which looks as if it just happened that way, to suggest that art and nature are one; John Marin, with his sure sense of spatial organization, his rich and exciting color orchestration, the superb qualities of his wash, and his power to evoke a mood; Charles Sheeler with his meticulously precise but highly selective realism, his austere elegance, and his perfect taste; A. Walkowitz, with his dreamy tenderness, his mosaic-like pattern, and his rich color fusion; and William Zorach, with his highly personal technique, his feeling for emotionally charged color and atmosphere, and his bold treatment of color masses.

HOLGER CAHILL.

EXHIBITION OF WATER COLORS

March 16th to 30th, 1931

CATALOG

CHARLES DEMUTH

Born in Lancaster, Pa., in 1883. Studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Is represented in the following museums: Metropolitan, Cleveland, Fogg, Brooklyn, Chicago Art Institute, Phillips Memorial Gallery, Barnes Foundation, Gallery of Living Art, and many important private collections.

- * 1 POPPIES
- 2 PLUMS
- 3 YELLOW IRIS
- 4 FLOWERS

PRESTON DICKINSON

Born in New York in 1891, and died in Spain, 1930. Studied at Art Students League and abroad. Is represented in the following museums: Brooklyn, Buffalo, Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, Newark, Hartford, Fogg, Omaha, Pennsylvania Academy, Phillips Memorial Gallery, Gallery of Living Art, and many important private collections.

- * 5 STILL LIFE WITH CANDLE (Pastel)
- 6 LANDSCAPE

"POP" HART

Born in Cairo, Illinois, in 1868. Self taught, except for a month of study at the Julian Academy. Received the Isidore prize in 1930. Is represented in the following museums: Cleveland, Metropolitan, Newark, Brooklyn, Cincinnati; South Kensington, and British in London; the Chicago Art Institute, the Preston Harrison collection in Los Angeles Museum, and in many important private collections. Monograph by Holger Cahill was published on "Pop" Hart in 1929 by The Downtown Gallery.

- * 7 ARAB BATHING HIS HORSE
- 8 MARKET PLAZA, MEXICO
- 9 THE FRENCH MISSION, BOUSAADA

JOHN MARIN

Born in Rutherford, N. J., in 1870. Studied at Philadelphia Academy and Art Students League. Is represented in the following museums: Brooklyn, Metropolitan, Newark, San Francisco, Fogg, the Chicago Art Institute, Gallery of Living Art, Wadsworth Atheneum, Phillips Memorial Gallery, and many important private collections.

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MARIN ISLAND

11

LITTLE TREE ON MORSE MOUNTAIN

12

THE GLORIETTA NEAR TAOS

13

FIR TREE AND SEA

CHARLES SHEELER

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1883. Studied at the Philadelphia Academy. Is represented in the Cleveland Museum, Chicago Art Institute, Phillips Memorial Gallery, Gallery of Living Art, and many important private collections.

* 14

AUTUMN LEAVES

15

INDUSTRIAL PLANT

16

STILL LIFE

A. WALKOWITZ

Born in 1880. Studied at the National Academy of Design, and at Julian Academy. Is represented in the Newark Museum, the Preston Harrison collection in the Los Angeles Museum, and many important private collections.

17

GLOUCESTER LANDSCAPE

* 18

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

19

CENTRAL PARK

WILLIAM ZORACH

Born in 1887. Studied at the National Academy of Design and abroad. Is represented in the Newark Museum, the Wade Collection in the Cleveland Museum, Phillips Memorial Gallery, Whitney Museum, Gallery of Living Art, the Preston Harrison collection in the Los Angeles Museum, and many important private collections.

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FLOWERS

21

LANDSCAPE, MAINE

22

MAINE FISHERMAN

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March 31 to April 19

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CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ARTISTS

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Paintings

ALEXANDER BROOK
GLENN O. COLEMAN
STUART DAVIS
WOOD GAYLOR
ANNE GOLDTHWAITE
ARNOLD FRIEDMAN
"POP" HART
MARSDEN HARTLEY
STEFAN HIRSCH
ISABELLA HOWLAND
BERNARD KARFIOL
JULIA KELLY
JULES PASCIN
JOSEPH POLLET
BEN SHAHN
CHARLES SHEELER
DOROTHY VARIAN
A. WALKOWITZ
MAX WEBER
MARGUERITE ZORACH

Sculpture

HUNT DIEDERICH
DUNCAN FERGUSON
ROBERT LAURENT
REUBEN NAKIAN
JOHN STORRS
WILLIAM ZORACH

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